Solar Energy Systems Engineer

**Job Description:** Work to improve the energy efficiency of residential, commercial, and industrial buildings using solar energy systems.

**What do Solar Energy Systems Engineers do?**

* Create plans for solar energy system development, monitoring, and evaluation activities.
* Design a solar hot-water heater for a home to help decrease energy bills.
* Perform computer simulations of solar photovoltaic generation system performance or energy production to optimize efficiency.
* Help farmer’s become energy independent by designing a solar photovoltaic system that will fit on a barn roof.
* Perform thermal, stress, or cost reduction analyses for solar systems.
* Oversee the installation of a home solar energy system to make sure it is all done properly.
* Draw up blueprints of a solar photovoltaic system to be installed on the sides of a new skyscraper.

**Outlook:**

Average Salary - $43.06 hourly, $89,560 annual

Projected Job Openings – 50,200 over the next 10 years

**Your Interests:**

* Are you good at math?
* Do you like to solve problems?
* Are you interested in how things work?
* Do you like to take things apart and put them back together?

**Education/Program of Study:**

* Bachelor’s Degree in an engineering discipline such as electrical or mechanical engineering
* Some positions may require a graduate degree in engineering
* Most employers seek to hire engineers who have a PE (professional engineer) license